

CLAIMS

1. A crosslinking agent (1) for crosslinking ionotropic gels by linking gel molecules (2) by counterion bridges (5), characterized in that the crosslinking agent contains the counterions (4) in a state where they are bound to a carrier substance (3), and the counterions (4) can be released from the carrier substance (3) under the external influence of a substance, temperature or radiation.
2. The crosslinking agent according to claim 1, where the carrier substance consists of cage molecules which bind the counterions in an electronic ground state and release the counterions in an electronic excitation state.
3. The crosslinking agent according to claim 2, where the cage molecules are formed from cage substances such as those used in cellular physiology for transport of divalent ions into biological cells.
4. The crosslinking agent according to claim 1, where the carrier substance and the counterion form a salt compound which can be dissolved under the influence of an acidifying solution.
5. The crosslinking agent according to claim 4, consisting of calcium carbonate.

6. The crosslinking agent according to one of the preceding claims, designed for the crosslinking of alginic acid molecules.

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7. A gel solution containing an ionotropic gel and a crosslinking agent according to one of claims 1 through 6.

8. A powder composition consisting of a dried, uncrosslinked ionotropic gel and a dried crosslinking agent according to one of claims 1 through 6.

9. A method of crosslinking ionotropic gels using a crosslinking agent according to one of claims 1 through 6 with the steps:

- providing a mixture of the gel molecules to be crosslinked and the crosslinking agent,
- forming a layered body or a volume-molded body of the mixture, and
- crosslinking the gel molecules by the external influence of a substance, temperature or radiation, which causes the counterions to be released from the carrier substance.

10. The method according to claim 1, whereby the first step comprises providing an aqueous solution of the gel molecules to be crosslinked and adding the crosslinking agent.

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- [illegible]

4 -  
- producing active ingredient encapsulations for cosmetics.

Sol A4 > Sol B1

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